

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 199426 TOSEC 090057
ORIGIN NODS-00

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APPROVED BY: S/S-O:LRFLEISHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 199426 TOSEC 090057

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 6246 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 22 AUG 77

QUOTE S E C R E T TEL AVIV 6246

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PARM, PGOV, ET, IS, US

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN PLEA TO ISRAELIS

REF: TEL AVIV 5778

1. DURING MEETING AUGUST 22 WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN ON AN UNRELATED SUBJECT, HE TOLD ME THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, KNOWING I WAS MEETING WITH WEIZMAN, HAD ASKED THAT A "FRANTIC MESSAGE" FROM THE ETHIOPIAN HEAD OF STATE MENGISTU, BE PASSED TO ME FOR FORWARDING TO THE DEPARTMENT. WEIZMANN READ FROM A COPY OF A MESSAGE FROM ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN ADDIS AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 STATE 199426 TOSEC 090057

QUOTE: MENGISTU HAS REQUESTED THAT ISRAEL ACT URGENTLY TO CONVINCE THE UNITED STATES TO HELP ETHIOPIA. SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS RELEASE OF F5 AIRCRAFT TO ADDIS. ETHIOPIA WILL BE LOST WITHOUT U.S. HELP. END QUOTE.

2. WEIZMAN THEN WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S GREAT CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION, ASKING "DO WE

(COLLECTIVE) LET ETHIOPIA FOLD UP COMPLETELY?" AND;
"HOW DO WE (ISRAEL) FLY TO AFRICA WITHOUT ETHIOPIA?"

3. I EXPLAINED THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP
HERE URGENTLY THREE TIMES IN THE RECENT PAST, HAD BEEN
THOROUGHLY EXPLORED, AND THEN I HAD NO INDICATION THAT
THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. I SAID
WE HAD, HOWEVER, NOW MADE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT BE
PROVIDING SOMALIA EVEN WITH ANY DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT
WHILE HOSTILITIES CONTINUED. I TOLD WEIZMAN I WOULD
AGAIN RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH WASHINGTON, BUT IN LIGHT
OF THE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS EFFORTS, I DID NOT ANTICIPATE
ANY DIFFERENT RESPONSE TO MENGISTU'S PLEA.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO THE
SECRETARY.
LEWIS
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: MARR, MASS, PARM, PGOV, ET, IS, US
To: SECRETARY WHITE HOUSE
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